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Boise National Forest
BOISE, IDAHO
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1955

Town Creek Planting Study

The second year of the Town Creek Planting Study was completed on May 6.

The site preparation work was completed in October, 1954. The actual planting was started two weeks later than in 1954, on April 19.

The 1955 planting was a duplication in all respects as far as age of planting stock, lifting, transportation, storage, sorting and planting techniques were concerned.

The Nursery

Conditions at the nursery were different inasmuch as the winter had been unusually dry and windy. Before lifting many of the trees were nearly buried with fine dirt which had blown in. The ground was so dry the irrigation water had to be turned on before lifting operation could be carried on. Many of the needles were brown due to this condition. The actual lifting operations were two weeks late. Our stock was lifted while still dormant .

The 2-1 stock was inferior when compared to stock in 1954. The same standards were used in root culling. A larger percent of this year's trees would only come up to the minimum requirements. The 2-0 stock was much better than last year's stock - larger, more vigorous and better root development generally prevailed.

Weather Conditions

The 1955 spring was at least three weeks later than in 1954. The snow covered most of the area when planting was started. The depth varied from a few inches to more than four feet. We had an additional twelve inches of new snow at the end of the first week. The snow started to leave the second week and was practically all gone when the job was finished at the end of the third week.

Planting Conditions

The OC-3 tractor was used to plow, run over and break up the snow to hasten its leaving. On the north slopes there was two inches or more of ice on top of the ground under the snow. The soil in many places had a frozen crust about a half inch deep under the ice. We were

crowding the condition too much of the time, which made planting too costly. After the snow and ice was broken up the ground soon became saturated with water. The trees planted under these conditions were puddled just in the process of planting and muddled in. The soil texture was compacted which may have some effect upon the trees. The average number of trees planted by special method this year was 157 as compared to 182 last year.

At the start of the study in 1954 we averaged 150 trees per man day. Our best day this year during the first week was 132 trees per man day. The regular planters averaged 340 against last years 400 per man day.

Rodents

Rabbits moved in on the area in fall of 1954. Prison alfalfa leaf was scattered before snow fell and after frost killed all the native grass. There was no sign of rabbits on the area this spring.

Gophers in tunneling cut a few of the 1954 trees below ground line during the winter. The loss was minor.

Columbia ground squirrels cut the terminal buds of a number of trees on both years' planting. Dicon poisoned oats were distributed over the area last fall and again this spring.

Grazing

All domestic stock was kept off the area in 1954. Considerable effort was exerted by Ranger Miller to keep them off. He will renew this effort this year. Deer have taken a few terminal buds this spring. This damage has been very minor.

Other Use

Deer hunters taking horses across the area during the deer season last fall knocked down or broke off some stakes. Some trees were trampled.

Other Planting

975 Jeffery pine and 1,100 1-1 ponderosa pine were planted in plow furrows between areas four and five. An additional 600 1-1 ponderosa pine were planted in islands of leave area inside area six. No site preparation work done. An additional 900 2-1 and 2-0 ponderosa pine were planted in leave areas and on the Gopher Creek ridge side adjacent to the area.

Recommendations

1. That the site preparation work continue to be done in the fall. This is the only practical way of handling this job.

2. That next year the planting be held off until two-thirds of the planting area is bare of snow.

3. That the same planting foremen (Roy Chenoweth, James Stover and Charles Clauser) that have been in charge the past two years be made available.

4. The road up Town Creek be improved and culverts placed where necessary so the road can be used next spring. This improvement would more than pay for itself in savings through reduced walking time on the job.

Summary of Work Performed on the

Town Creek Planting Study - 1955

Experimental Area

	Trees Planted
2-0 Special	11,423
2-1 Special	11,455
2-1 Regular	11,911
Total	34,789

Trees Planted Off the Experimental Area (All Special Plant)

1-1 Jeffery	975
1-1 Ponderosa pine	1,700
2-1 Ponderosa in openings	750
2-0 Ponderosa in openings	150
	3,575
Total of all trees planted	38,364

No. strips 22 - 24 chains in length --- 81.

Length strips brush removed with D-7 tractor and blade --- 17.6 miles.

Length of plow furrows with tractor and plow --- 21.6 miles.

Length of double tree rows in untreated strips --- 17.3 miles.

17,795 staked trees.

3,479 stakes painted.

91½ acres total in all planting.

½ mile of low standard road constructed.

Thelon C Goodwin